

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 EB-07 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-01

FEA-01 /097 W

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R 281313Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

ZO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2581

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USMISSION USUN

B

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, SF, WA, RH

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY BY SECRETARY
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE

REF: PRETORIA 3248

1. DURING LUNCH HOSTED BY DR. ROUX, PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN
ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD, AND BRAND FOURIE, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, FOR ERDA REPS MESSRS THORNE AND HUDGINS ON 23
AUGUST (NO EMBOFF PRESENT), FOURIE STATED THAT AT PRESENT FOUR
MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FOR SOUTH AFRICA IN AREA OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ARE SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, BRING SOUTH WEST AFRICA
(SWA) TO INDEPENDENCE, SIGNING OF NPT AND SOLVING PORTUGUESE
REFUGEE PROBLEM RESULTING FROM FIGHTING IN ANGOLA. HE
REGARDED SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA AS HAVING HIGHEST PRIORITY AND
OF MOST IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID THAT SAG CURRENTLY
DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO SEE THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IS
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REACHED BETWEEN RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND ANC.

2. ON SWA, FOURIE STATED THAT SAG PLANNED TO GRANT IMDEPENDENCE IN ABOUTH SIX YEARS. HE ADDED THAT IF ALL WENT WELL, INDEPENDENCE COULD COME IN FIVE YEARS, BUT COULD TAKE SEVEN YEARS IF IT DID NOT. HE SAID SAG WILL NEGOTIATE ONLY WITH "FRANCHISED" GROUPS IN SWA AND DEFINED "FRANCHISED" GROUPS AS THOSE WHICH HAD AN EDUCATED LEADERSHIP, SUPPORT OF PEOPLE THEY REPRESENT, ABILITY TO HANDLE MONEY, HAD FINANCIAL BACKING AND ABILITY TO HANDLE ADMINISTRATION OF RESOURCES. HE COMMENTED THAT BIGGEST PROBLEM

FACING SAG IN SWA NOW IS EDUCATION OF VARIOUS GROUPS SO THEY CAN BECOME "FRANCHISED." FOURIE SAID THAT AT PRESENT "ONE-MAN, ONE"VOTE" IS NOT BEING CONSIDERED. ONCE GROUP "FRANCHISED", SAG WOULD THEN NEGOTIATE INDEPENDENCE.

COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SAG WOULD NEGOTIATE SETTLEMENT WITH EACH IN TURN OR ALL AT ONCE. MESSRS. THORNE AND HUDGINS GOT IMPRESSION THAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE SOME SORT OF FEDERATION. FOURIE'S DESCRIPTION OF HOW SAG WOULD LIKE TO SEE NAMIBIANINDEPENDENCE UNFOLD IS FIRST TIME HIGH SAG OFFICIAL HAS BEEN THIS FORTHCOMING. ITIS CONSISTENT WITH THRUST OF SAG EFFORTS BEHIND CONFERENCE OF ETHNIC GROUPINGS DUE TO OPENON SEPT 1. IT PRESENTS OBVIOUS PROBLEMS IN TERMS OF UN EXPECTATIONS AND POSITION TAKEN BY US, FRANCE, AND UK IN TRIPARTITE DEMARCHE.

3. FOURIE'S COMMENTS ON NPT CONTAINED IN REFTEL. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SAG CURRENTLY PAYING OUT APPROXIMATELY ONE BILLION U.S. DOLLARS PER YEAR FOR OIL COMPARED TO ABOUT 300 MILLION U.S. DOLLARS PER YEAR TWO YEARS AGO. FOR THIS REASON SAG WANTS TO REDUCE ITS USE OF OIL BY USING NUCLEAR POWER.

4. FOURIE CONSIDERED THE PORTUGUESE REFUGEE PROBLEM TO BE SHORT TERM ONLY. ONCE REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA REPATRIATED TO PORTUGAL OR ONCE FIGHTING IN ANGOLA SETTLED, PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, INDEPENDENCE, NPT, TREATY SIGNATURE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRETOR03284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750298-0909
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975089/aaaaahlo.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PRETORIA 3248
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENTS ON SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY BY SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ENRG, SF, WA, RH, AO, (ROUX), (FOURIE, BRAND)
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006